

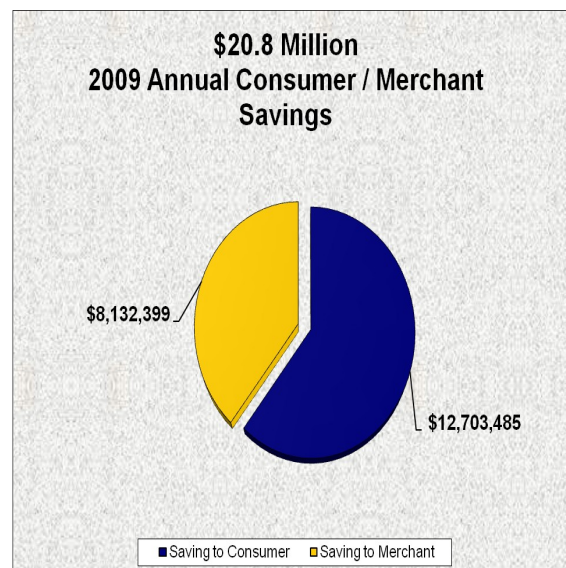
## Inside the DOS

**\$20.8 Million In Savings Realized in 2009**

According to the information in the 2009 Annual Reports, required to be filed by local weights and measures enforcement agencies, consumer and merchant savings when added to the Division's totaled \$20.8 million. These savings are achieved by correcting errors in commercial weighing and measuring devices found during the required annual testing of commercial devices.

The savings show the importance of adequately funding weights and measures enforcement. Dollar for dollar investing in weights and measures enforcement has proven over the test of time to be the best hedge against inflation for both consumers and businesses. Through both state and local efforts enforcing these requirements ensures that "Equity prevails" for both businesses and consumers.

You can review the Annual Report at: [www.mass.gov/standards](http://www.mass.gov/standards). Please feel free to utilize this information in support of your local program.



## Welcome New Sealers!

We would like to congratulate the sealers recently appointed to local positions and look forward to meeting them at the associations meetings in 2010. Please welcome:

John Gibney – Methuen  
David Metell – Melrose  
Robert Mora – Weston  
Kevin Murphy – Falmouth  
Richard Ziegler – Weymouth  
David Gusmini – Southboro  
Richard Burgess – Swansea  
David Tilton – Chelmsford

A pre-certification study class will be held in Peabody on May 19<sup>th</sup>. A separate notice will be forwarded by the Division's training Officer in the immediate future.

## Annual Conferences and Meetings for 2010

**NEWMA Conference** The Northeastern Weights and Measures Association (NEWMA) held its annual conference in Groton, Conn. at the Marriott Mystic Hotel May 10-13. The NEWMA standing committees, Specification & Tolerance, Law & Regulations and Professional Development held open hearings to discuss the various agenda items that will be voted on at the NCWM weights and measures annual conference. These hearings provided the opportunity for both regulators and regulated to voice their position on the items being considered for adoption. Final standing committee reports were presented and will be forwarded to the NCWM standing committees for publication in the NCWM annual conference report.

**EMWMA Meeting** Eastern Mass Weights and Measures Association (EMWMA) has scheduled its annual meeting in Bourne on Wednesday June 23 at the Brookside and is always well attended. An announcement will be mailed from EMWMA in the near future regarding the agenda to be presented.

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## Updated Motor Fuel Regulations

The Motor Fuel Regulations were updated to reflect changes in the marketplace. "Cash/Credit" began to resurface after being phased out during the oil shortage in the early 1970s. In addition, we began to see other types of service being offered in conjunction with motor fuel sales. Dealers were offering oil changes and car washes as inducements to purchasing motor fuel. We also began to see blends of bio-diesel offered for sale. The motor fuel regulations were amended to address these and other marketplace changes. Spring also begins the testing of motor fuel dispensers and it offers an opportunity to bring into compliance those locations that have not to date complied with the new requirements.



One area that needs some attention is the street signs that advertise motor fuel prices. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94, Section 295D requires all signs that advertise or refer to the price of motor fuel to have a statement that the price includes all taxes. **Section 295D reads:** Any advertisement of motor fuel by a retail dealer which states, refers to or relates to the price of motor fuel shall state the per gallon price thereof, which price shall include all taxes so stated, referred to or related to, and there shall be included in such advertising matter a statement that such per gallon price includes such taxes or a statement of the amount of such taxes which are included in the stated per gallon price.

Civil citations may be issued for sign violations. We suggest that if a sign violation is found that a citation be issued and marked "Warning" and that you allow thirty days to comply. You should also be aware that several industry associations are filing legislation to remove this requirement from the statute. The proposed amendment would eliminate the need to place this statement on advertisements pertaining to price but would retain the requirement that the price advertised is the total price including all taxes.

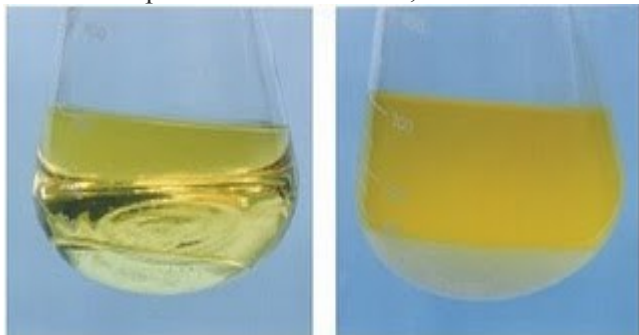
On the web at [www.mass.gov/standards](http://www.mass.gov/standards)

### Water Complaints Spring Forth in Ethanol Blended Gasoline

The unusually heavy spring rains flooded the office (no pun intended) with water related fuel complaints. Ethanol absorbs water to a certain point, but once beyond that point the ethanol will separate from the gasoline causing Phase Separation making the task of determining if water is present more difficult. When this Phase Separation occurs there is an upper layer of gasoline, a milky layer mix of Ethanol and Water, and then in some cases a third layer of just water at the bottom as depicted in the photo below.

In bulk storage tanks where Phase Separation may have occurred or when there is concern that it may happen, we suggest the use of a modified water finding paste such as the Kolor Kut Company's paste. This paste starts out brown on the measuring stick and if it turns yellow (even light or spotty yellow), there is significant water dissolved in the fuel, if the paste turns red you have free water.

If Phase Separation has occurred, the retailer needs to pump the tank from the bottom to remove the bottom layer(s) containing the water and or the Ethanol/Water mix. (Note: check again for Separation before the technician leaves). You do not need to remove the gasoline. Check with water finding paste after 24 hours and if no red or yellow is present then have the retailer add clean fuel to the tank to working capacity.



### Metrology Lab

We will be relocating the Metrology Laboratory from its current location in Waltham. The Fernald School is scheduled to be closed at the end of June and the Lab was in need of repair.

We are looking forward to relocating to a facility that will meet the current NIST laboratory standards. Also, if you need to contact the lab please call Don Smith on his cell phone at 617-571-4966 as the main telephone line is not working.